

REMARKS

Enclosed herewith is a certified copy of German application 101 50 796.8 in support of the claim for priority.

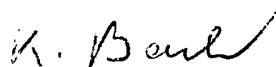
In the present case, an international application PCT/EP02/011545 was filed on 10/15/02, which is within the priority period of German application 101 56 796.8 filed 10/15/01. The international application designated the US and therefore had the effect, from its international filing date under article 11 of the treaty, of a national application filed in the US Patent Office (USC 35 § 363). Based on the international application (effective as a US application), the present Continuation-In-Part Application was filed on 04/14/04, that is, while the international application (with the effect of a national application) was pending so that the claim for priority is properly based on the application filed in Germany on 10/15/01.

Concerning the claim rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, claim 1 has been amended so as to remove the phrase "for example". Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 – 9 under 35 USC § 112 is therefore respectfully requested.

Upon review of the claims, some minor changes were considered to be appropriate to bring the claims in better condition for allowance. Those amendments are indicated in the various claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to accept those amendments as they are considered to be beneficial to the definition of the invention by the claims.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 – 9 is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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